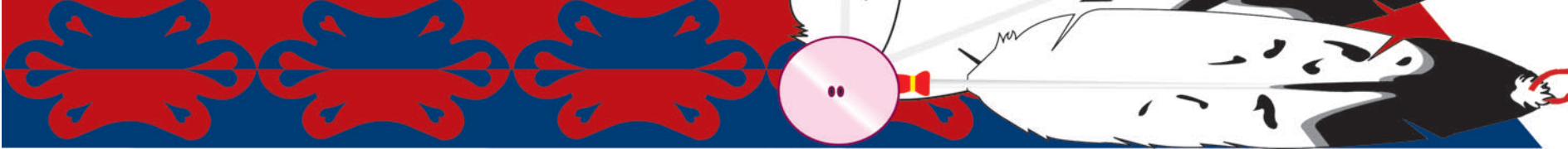


Menominee Nation News



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College of Menominee Nation forms alliance with U.S. Department of Forestry

Trilby Beauprey McIntosh
Menominee Nation News

The celebration of partnership between the College of Menominee Nation and the USDA Forest Service occurred on Friday, January 23, 2004 at the College of Menominee Nation in the Cultural Learning Center in Keshena, Wisconsin.

Present at the historic event were Dr. Holly YoungBear-Tibbetts, Director of Sustainable Development Institute, David Grignon, Nahwahquaw, Director, Menominee Tribal Historic Preservation, Little Chiefs drummers and singers from the Menominee Indian High School, Veterans of the Menominee Nation, Senator Roger M. Breske of the 12th Senate District, Joan Delabreau, Chairperson of the Menominee Tribal Legislature, Menominee Tribal Enterprises Board of Directors, Dale Kanen, Director of the National Office of Tribal Relations, Forest Service, Dr. Verna Fowler, President of the College of Menominee Nation, College of Menominee Nation Board members and numerous guests representing the Forest Service, Menominee community members and College of Menominee students and staff.

Informational billboards with rich emerald green forest scenes and fauna decorated the center and provided a stage for the historic exchange between the College and the Forest Service.

A welcome was extended by Director, Dr. Holly YoungBear-Tibbetts of the College of Menominee Sustainable Development Institute. She shared, "The name Wisconsin means, "A good place to live."



T. Beauprey McIntosh/MNN

Above, The Menominee Nation Veterans' Color Guard and the Little Chiefs Drumming group provide opening ceremonies for the College of Menominee Nation and the USDA Forest Service Partnership Ceremony.

A prayer for the event was offered by David J. Grignon, Nahwahquaw, Director of the Menominee Tribal Historic Preservation. Nahwahquaw also provided the English language equivalent for the guests.

The Little Chiefs from the Menominee Indian High School performed the Flag Song with teacher, John Teller.

The Veterans of Menominee Nation made their entry dancing to post colors. While the drum played and the singers sang, a still quiet fell over the room as a toddler child, holding her mother's hand, was drawn to the singing and drumming. Menominee people attending the ceremony also stood in place and danced in a swaying motion. The room was quiet as the spirit of the meeting was set by the

singing and the drumming with resounding pride and respect.

The creation of a national center for research along with the academic opportunity and the opportunity to merge the geniuses of the College of Menominee Nation and the USDA Forest Service signified, "A happy day for me," announced Dr. Holly YoungBear-Tibbetts. Dr. YoungBear-Tibbetts shared it was in 1998 when Dr. Fowler paid a visit to the Forestry lab of the Forest Service and came away with a vision and an idea for a broad collaboration between the two.

Dr. YoungBear-Tibbetts introduced Chairperson of the Menominee Tribal Legislature, Joan Delabreau. Chairperson Delabreau affirmed, "Menominee means good place to live too."

She shared there are 8,100 tribal members and yet, some of the State of Wisconsin legislators, "Don't know who we are."

Addressing the monies that go to the College, from the Menominee Tribe, Chairperson Delabreau affirmed, "It's the best use of dollars that we give to the College." She explained, "The College of Menominee Nation has forged their way and that education ripples further, deeper." She shared the Sawmill and the Casino provide employment and she shared a phrase coined by Wisconsin State Governor Doyle with, "There is no better social program, than a good paying job."

See Partnership pg.3

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